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on the minute-hand spindle of a cheap clock. This method obviates the use of a cylinder, which is difficult to arrange.

Adjournment followed.

MARSHALL A. HOWE,  
*Secretary pro tem.*

### NEWS ITEMS

Dr. and Mrs. N. L. Britton returned to New York on April 3 from a collecting expedition to Cuba. Most of their three weeks on the island was spent in the vicinity of Matanzas.

The Connecticut Botanical Society's committee on the lower cryptogams has been constituted as follows : *Bryophyta* : Professor A. W. Evans, New Haven ; *Algae* : Mr. Isaac Holden, Bridgeport ; *Fungi* : Dr. G. P. Clinton, New Haven.

We learn from *Science* that Dr. Frederick DeForest Heald, now professor of biology in Parsons College, Iowa, has been elected adjunct professor of plant physiology and general bacteriology in the University of Nebraska.

Professors Volney M. Spalding, of the University of Michigan, and W. A. Setchell, of the University of California, have been granted a year's leave of absence by their respective institutions, and will devote this time largely to travels and botanical investigations in Europe.

Professor F. S. Earle, of the New York Botanical Garden, returned on April 2 from Cuba, where, in company with Professor L. M. Underwood and Mr. E. W. D. Holway, he has been making collections of fungi in the neighborhood of Santiago and Baracoa. Professor Underwood has returned to Jamaica to continue the explorations begun by him there in January.